

**EXETER-WEST GREENWICH    May 23, 2006**

**REGIONAL SCHOOL DISTRICT**

## **MINUTES**

**The Exeter-West Greenwich Regional School District School Committee held a meeting on this date at 7:00 p.m. in the Exeter-West Greenwich Jr. – Sr. High School Library. Members present were Susan DeSack, Chairperson; Teri Cicero, Vice Chairperson; Gregory Coutcher, Clerk; Bill Clay, and Paul McFadden. Member Frank Maher arrived at 7:16 p.m. Member William Munroe was absent. Superintendent Roy M. Seitsinger, Jr.; Director of Curriculum Nancy I. Daley; Director of Administration Robert V. Ross; and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo were present.**

**ORDER – Chair DeSack called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.**

**The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all and Vice Chair Cicero read the District Mission Statement.**

**OPEN FORUM – Superintendent Seitsinger announced two flags were purchased for the high school library.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger and Chair DeSack commended the junior-senior high school music department and their students for their efforts and outstanding performance this past weekend. Chair**

**DeSack voiced her opinion that it was one of their best concerts thus far.**

**PRESENTATION – Jr. High School Presentation – Principal Thompson gave an overview of the junior high school 2005 - 2006 achievements. He reported the junior high school was awarded status as a NELMS Spotlight School. He invited band teacher Gregg Charest to come forward to speak about the music department. Mr. Charest reported the junior high school jazz band and the junior high school chorus received a Superior rating at the recent State of Rhode Island competition and the junior high school concert band received a rating of Excellent. Principal Thompson highlighted workshops held, schedule changes implemented, academic award programs and after school club programs implemented, and the newly applied Academic Probation Extra Help Assistance Program. Principal Thompson made a plea for after school buses. He talked about the book Breaking Ranks in the Middle and said he will provide copies to all members.**

**Member Maher arrived at this time, (7:16 p.m.).**

**Principal Thompson attributed the junior high school successes to a very highly qualified, enthusiastic faculty, a wonderful central administrative team, and the School Committee for understanding what Middle School Reform is about. He emphasized the junior high school is at a good place and will continue to strive to do better. In**

**closing, Principal Thompson reported the junior high school does not socially promote students and**

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**explained what the junior high school has planned academically in observance of Memorial Day.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger reported the extremely talented EWG Marching Band will participate in the West Greenwich Memorial Day Parade this coming weekend.**

**School Committee Apple Recognition Award – Camille Sensale, Debra Larkin, Christine McGrane, Dawn Seitz – School Nurse-Teacher – Chair DeSack recognized the EWG school nurse-teachers for all they do. Vice Chair Cicero read a statement, (written by Member Clay) in recognition of the district’s nurse-teachers, and members presented each nurse-teacher with a small recognition award and offered thanks.**

**ROUTINE ITEMS – CONSENT AGENDA – Superintendent Seitsinger gave an overview of the Consent Agenda.**

**Member McFadden moved to accept the consent agenda. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger explained effective May 23, 2006; he is instituting Superintendent Notes (SN) to the School Committees' Agenda Detail. This process will aid as a means for him to inform members in advance of agenda item specifics.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger referenced consent agenda item 4. Recalls and explained the list enclosed is the first of two he will provide. The second list will be provided at the June 13, 2006 School Committee meeting.**

**The following items were approved:**

**A. Approval of Minutes – Regular Minutes of May 9, 2006, Executive Session II Minutes of April 11, 2006**

**B. Personnel Items**

**1. Appointments**

**2. Leaves of Absence**

**3. Resignations – (As Recommended by the Superintendent, with regret)**

**a. Letter of Resignation from Ellen Schraeder from her position as Sr. High School Art Teacher, with regret, effective June 2006.**

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**b. Letter of Resignation from Rebecca Quattrocchi from her position as Grade 3 Teacher, with regret, effective June 2006.**

**c. Letter of Resignation from Roxanne Tisch from her position as Sr. High School Math Teacher, with regret, effective June 2006.**

**4. Recalls – (As Recommended by the Superintendent) –**

**a.    See Attached List**

**5. Grievances**

**C. Bills – In the amount of \$180,326.48**

**D. Home School Approvals – (As Recommended by the Superintendent)**

**1.   Doyle - Kathryn**

**End Consent Agenda**

**Superintendent Seitsinger read the list of Correspondence.**

**E. Correspondence – (1) Referendum Bond Meeting Information, (2) May 11, 2006 Wood River Press Article Regarding EWG Agriculture**

**Students, (3) May 11, 2006 Wood River Press Photographs Regarding Metcalf Elementary Career Awareness Event, (4) Spring 2006 Student Paths Newspaper Featuring two EWG Seniors, (5) E-mail from Math Department Chair Karen Purtill Regarding the RI State Math Fair, (6) A Wawaloam Teachers Retirement Celebration Invitation, (7) May 22, 2006 Confidential Memo to School Committee Members from Superintendent Seitsinger, (8) Metcalf School Feinstein Good Deed Program April 2006 Newsletter, (9) Memo to the Superintendent and School Committee Members from Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo Regarding - Request Staffing/Special Ed Teacher & Assistant, (10) Memo to School Committee Members from Superintendent Seitsinger and May 21, 2006 Providence Sunday Journal Article Regarding Group Homes**

**Superintendent Seitsinger referenced correspondence (7) and brought members' attention to the fact it was a confidential item. Member Clay requested correspondence (9) continue onto the next agenda for clarification/discussion. Referencing correspondence (10), Superintendent Seitsinger and Director of Special Services Maureen DeCrescenzo briefly voiced concerns relating to group homes in the community. Chair DeSack asked administration to report their concerns at the next School Committee meeting. Superintendent Seitsinger explained because of the importance of this subject matter,**

**follow-up correspondence may be mailed to members in advance of the June 13, 2006 School Committee meeting.**

**NEW BUSINESS – Foreign Exchange Program 2006 – 2007 - Argentina – Sr. High School foreign language teachers Alicia Bailey and René Boudreau gave an overview of the French Foreign Exchange Program currently in place at the senior high school and explained they would like to establish a similar program for those students enrolled in Spanish. Members asked clarifying questions. Member Clay explained tonight's agenda item Policy #8604 – Student Travel – Revision lists sanctioned overnight travel requirements; data which will need to be reviewed by members prior to sanctioning a student trip. Chair DeSack said this item will carry over to the next agenda if the necessary data is provided.**

**Policies – Review and Adoption – 8701 – Student Medication - Revision – Member Clay highlighted the most recent revisions made to policy #8701. Members and the Superintendent discussed and made recommendations for additional policy language modifications relating to epi-pen administration by other school personnel. Member Clay will make the suggested revisions and this policy will carry over to the next agenda.**

**8515-Prohibited Fraternization Between Students – 1st Reading – Member Clay confirmed Principal Boulé has reviewed this policy on two occasions. Members and the Superintendent had a lengthy discussion and exchanged opinions relating to policy language which states fraternization between students is prohibited. Consensus was the policy committee will make the recommended modifications, remove the word fraternization, and continue this policy to the next meeting for a 2nd Reading.**

**8604 – Student Travel – Revision – Member Clay explained extensive revisions were made to this policy and highlighted them for members.**

**Chair DeSack suggested this policy should be considered a 1st Reading rather than a Revision. This policy will carry over to the next meeting for a 2nd Reading.**

**7604 – Graduation – Revision – Members and the Superintendent discussed the importance of this policy and its clarity especially since the new implementation of the graduation requirement Senior Project. The Superintendent emphasized there may be a need to revisit this policy for further revision at a later date, as RIDE may make recommendations in the future of what this policy should contain.**

**Member Clay moved to accept Policy #7604 – Graduation – Revision. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**



**Looping Language – Superintendent Seitsinger confirmed teachers have agreed to, voted for (28 – 4), and understand the Memorandum of Agreement Between The Exeter-West Greenwich School Committee and The Exeter-West Greenwich Teachers’**

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**Association (Adoption of Looping at the EWGJHS). He explained next year is a contract negotiation year and plans are to include the MOA in the contract discussions.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the language for looping at the Exeter-West Greenwich Regional Jr. High School. Seconded by Member Clay.**

**Jr. High School Principal Thompson briefly answered members’ clarifying questions relating to the looping process.**

**Voted 6 – 0. Motion carries.**

**Lunch Cost – Business Status Report – Director of Administration Robert Ross, Superintendent Seitsinger, and members discussed the Sodexo Lunch Program deficit and its probable cause. Mr. Ross gave a brief overview of this year’s circumstances, goals for the future, and end of the year projections. He explained additional specific data will be available for review at the end of the school year**

after finalizing with Sodexho. Member Maher asked clarifying questions about other forms of revenue the district provides to Sodexho, i.e. ice cream sales profits to Sodexho. Mr. Ross reported Sodexho is a federally reimbursed food program. There is standard contract language that prohibits the sale of food that competes with the program. However, Sodexho continuously permits student program fundraising from the sale of food without resistance. They also offer two (2) scholarships per year to EWG students. Mr. Ross expressed his opinion that Sodexho is more than a good citizen to the district. He said he believes prior to this contract expiration, the district will not be in a deficit.

**SATS – Curriculum Status Report – Superintendent Seitsinger** reported the SAT program ran and twelve classes were held. He said administration plans to now track the students that participated. Director of Curriculum Nancy Daley gave a brief overview of the program and reported the course instructor is awaiting the arrival of the SAT scores. The Superintendent, Ms. Daley, Principal Boulé, and members discussed and exchanged ideas for future SAT program expectations, i.e. website practice tests, effectiveness, scheduling, ensuring a structured program that will be regularly available to all students.

Member Maher left the meeting at this time, (8:34 p.m.).

Principal Boulé suggested including this program in at the end of the

**year calendar meeting in order to secure dates and advertising for an instructor so students may prepare over the summer. Consensus was the committee is 100% in support of this program and would like to see a program outline for the future.**

**Breakdown of Sr. High Foreign Language/Science – Budget Projection 2005 – 2006 – No discussion took place regarding this matter.**

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**Jr./Sr. High School Sewerage Pump Replacement – Member Clay moved to approve the replacement of the Jr./Sr. High School Sewerage Pump.**

**Mr. Ross explained this item qualifies as a capital project and will be eligible for some reimbursement. He gave his perception of a likely timeline to complete the project and receive reimbursement. Mr. Ross said the Metcalf fire alarm system replacement will be moving forward in a couple of weeks. Chair DeSack asked that Metcalf's fire alarm be added to the next agenda. Mr. Ross reported there are several summer projects planned and said he will provide a summer projects summary at the June 13th meeting.**

**Seconded by Member McFadden. Voted 5 – 0.**

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS – Policies – Review and Adoption – 3206 – District Financial Meeting – Adoption – Member Maher returned at this time, (8:43 p.m.).**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to adopt Policy #3206 – District Financial Meeting. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Substitute Teachers – Superintendent Seitsinger recommended modifying the substitute teacher pay rate to \$75 per day rather than his previous suggestion of \$80. He explained upon completing and reviewing a cost analysis, he and Mr. Ross found the overall impact to the district will be minimal. Superintendent Seitsinger proposed a flat rate, which is different from the district's current practice; eliminating longevity for substitute teachers; and setting elementary and secondary substitute teacher day rates at equal amounts, in order to make EWG similarly attractive as other southern RI districts.**

**Vice Chair Cicero moved to accept the Superintendent's recommendations to increase the substitute teacher pay rate. Seconded by Clerk Coutcher.**

**Some members asked clarifying questions regarding Professional Development days and teacher attendance.**

**Voted 6 – 0.**

**Strategic Planning Recommendation – Member Clay moved to accept the Strategic Plan. Seconded by Vice Chair Cicero. Voted 6 – 0.**

**2004-2005 Money Held Back by Exeter – Attorney Nicholas Gorham reported a decision has been made and Judge Rubine awarded the district the full amount owed, plus interest. He explained the interest will accrue until payment is received. Attorney Gorham reported prior to the decision, the town of Exeter indicated to him they would**

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**appeal if the decision was not in their favor. Attorney Gorham said the town has 20-days from the judgment date to appeal. If the town appeals, the interest continues to accrue. As of June 1st, the interest rate will be at 14%.**

**REPORTS/COMMENTS – None**

**IMPORTANT DATES AND MEETINGS – May 29, 2006 – Memorial Day, June 1,**

**2006 – Honors Night @ 6: PM; June 6, 2006 – Last Day for Seniors, June 10, 2006 –**

**Graduation Day; June 13, 2006 – School Committee Meeting; June 20,**

**2006 – 180th Day**

**of School; June 27, 2006 – School Committee Meeting**

**Chair DeSack referenced June 1st - Honors Night and June 10th – Graduation Day and asked which members plan on attending these events. Vice Chair Cicero reminded members the 8th grade Moving-Up Ceremony is scheduled for June 20th at 5:00 p.m. Chair DeSack asked which members plan on attending. Chair DeSack confirmed she will make Member Munroe aware of these important dates.**

**Superintendent Seitsinger announced the Socks for Soldiers Program will begin on June 2nd. Collection boxes will be placed in all school foyers for the purpose of collecting white athletic socks for US soldiers overseas.**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION – Chair DeSack moved to go into Executive Session at**

**9:00 p.m. in accordance with RIGL 42-46-5(a) (9) for the purpose of discussion regarding Collective Bargaining Agreement. Seconded by Member Clay. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting recessed to Executive Session at 9:00 p.m.**

**Meeting reconvened to Open Session at 9:55 p.m.**

**Chair DeSack called the meeting back to order in open session in**

**accordance with RIGL 42-46-2(b) at 9:56 p.m.**

**No votes were taken during Executive Session.**

**ADJOURNMENT – Vice Chair Cicero moved to adjourn at 10:00 p.m.  
Seconded by Clerk Coutcher. Voted 6 – 0.**

**Meeting adjourned at 10:00 p.m.**

**ROBIN CERIO**

**CLERK**